



Hunter Bird Observers Club

NEWSLETTER

Issue 4/07

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Hunter Bird Observers Club Inc.
(affiliated with Bird Observation & Conservation Australia)

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Ann Lindsey

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Wilma Barden
Sue Hamonet
Ed Hamonet (dec)

The aims of the club are:

- *To encourage and further the study and conservation of Australian birds and their habitat*
- *To encourage bird observing as a leisure-time activity*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR 2007

Edition

October/November
December2007/January08

Copy Deadline

September 29
December 2

Kilaben Bay Midweek Outing. 5th June 2007

from Garth Cooksey

On a cool and overcast morning 18 HBOC members and friends gathered at the end of Kilaben Road to explore the Kilaben Bay Track for bird life. There's no obvious start to the track, but by heading inland after the last house the track soon appears. From the start we began seeing Yellow Thornbills, Grey Fantails the seemingly ubiquitous Yellow Faced Honeyeaters, and Noisy Friarbirds and Rainbow Lorikeets.

The track goes over a few short boardwalks as it follows a small creek northwards. There's a track that peels off to the left, which we took, leading to a small bridge over the creek (the condition of the bridge makes me wonder if it survived the June long weekend storm). In this area I had seen an Azure Kingfisher a couple of weeks earlier but sadly not today. We did see Pacific Black Ducks, Eastern Rosellas, Brown Thornbills, Red Browed Finches and Musk Lorikeets.

After crossing the bridge we were in the grounds of St Josephs Primary School, which we passed through to an area of marshland next to another creek. After a short climb up a wooded hill (where Southern Emu Wrens had been seen previously - but not today) we retraced our steps back to the cars. Some sightings in this area were Little Black Cormorants, Little Pied Cormorants and Pelicans.

We had morning tea looking out over Kilaben Bay in a cleared section at the lake's edge. The sun put in an appearance for us which rounded off this part of the morning beautifully. We decided to have a look at Rathmines Park next. We all reassembled at Styles Point, Rathmines Park and walked towards the old Catalina Flying boat ramps. There were Noisy Miners, Kookaburras, Rainbow Lorikeets and Grey Butcherbirds in the trees and Little Pied Cormorants, Silver Gulls, Chestnut Teals, and a very patient and intent Great Egret in the lake.

On returning to the cars we found a flock of Little Lorikeets feeding on the blossoms in the trees. A pair of Rainbow Lorikeets were nesting in a tree with several hollows up it's trunk and it kept us amused as to which hollow they would appear out of next.

Midweek Outing – 3rd July 2007.

Elizabeth Bay – Lake Munmorah & Chain Valley Bay North

from Val Moon

We met at the reserve at Elizabeth Bay on the edge of Lake Munmorah where Margaret Woods led us along the dirt road heading south – where we saw many birds feeding in the banksia trees there. We had good views of Rainbow and Musk Lorikeet, Brown & Yellow Thornbills, White-cheeked, New Holland, Scarlet, Lewin's & Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Eastern Spinebill, Noisy Friarbirds, Red & Little Wattlebirds, Superb Fairy-wren, White-browed Scrubwren & a flock of Silvereyes flew through.

On the lake edge we saw Mallard, Chestnut Teal, Australasian grebe & a White-faced Heron – a total of 41 species for this area.

After morning tea at the picnic area we moved across to Chain Valley Bay North on Lake Macquarie and proceeded along the walking/cycling track and across the bridge over Karignan Creek which joins the two suburbs of north & South Chain Valley Bay.

We saw White-faced & Striated heron, Darters, Caspian & Crested Tern, Rainbow & Musk Lorikeet, Superb & Variegated Fairy-wren, Red-browed Finch, Brown, Yellow & Striated Thornbill, White-cheeked, Scarlet, & Yellow-faced Honeyeaters, Noisy friarbirds, Red & Little Wattlebirds, Golden Whistler, Silvereye and a Little Eagle flew overhead – a total of 42 species.

A good morning's outing was had, with a total of 53 different species having been seen.

FISH FRY CREEK BRIDGE

Anyone going on to Ash Island should be aware that there is a bridge collapsed over Fish Fry Creek. This is if you take the southern route to the main pond system –i.e. the route close to the south arm of the river. The access via Bellfrog Track is OK.

This news provided by Alan Stuart

NEW MEMBERS DAY 24 June 2007

from Di Johnson

Our inaugural New Members Day started very well with 15 members gathered at the entrance to The Wetlands Centre on a rather nice day. Surprising, since up till then, we'd had awfully wet weather.

Yellow Thornbills, an Eastern Spinebill, White-Cheeked Honeyeaters and Little Wattlebirds flitted from tree to tree seemingly joyful in the sunlight and winter blossoming. Welcome Swallows gracefully swooped out, hawking in the crisp, clean air.

We moved inside and were amazed at the fantastic vantage point over the ponds due to the renovations of the Centre which included erecting a very spacious verandah. What a view it has created! Now one can sip a Latte while leisurely watching Magpie Geese, Eurasian Coots, Chestnut Teal, Black Duck, Purple Swamphens, Aussie Grebes and many other visitors from time to time. A Great Egret preened itself on Gilligan's Island and we oohed and aahed over its snowy white plumage.

A large number of Shovellers fed quietly on the next pond together with some distinctive Hardheads. Further around we had a really good view of a Spangled Drongo trying to snaffle some Silvereyes. Behind them we became fascinated by two male Black Swans twitching their feathers and holding their necks erect. We soon saw that they were interested in a female which eluded them at first but finally accepted the demonstrative efforts of one of them. Ahem!

Further along we caught sight of a number of Top Knot Pigeons flying overhead and saw some Yellow-Tailed Black Cockatoos. For a while we were intrigued by a Fuscous Honeyeater which seemed to be building a nest in the fork of a tree overhanging the path.

Melva Fisher, Eve Russel, Joan Fried and Lois Wooding enjoyed the barbecue and were introduced to the customary Bird Count after sampling some really nice slices. However, it was interrupted by the sighting of an Azure Kingfisher down on Gilligan's Island. Out came the telescopes again! Great views! We all agreed that a visit to The Wetlands Centre with its relaxing atmosphere, great birds and delicious food is well worthwhile.

The HUNTER 300 CLUB.

How many birds have you seen in the Hunter?

Have you seen more than 300 species? If so, welcome to the Hunter 300 Club – and you're now eligible for a special badge. And for those who have made it to the next milestone, there's also the Hunter 350 Club.

How to obtain a badge? Let Alan Stuart know what your total; is (almarosa@bigpond.com or 49525869)

Your badge will be presented to you at the next HBOC meeting or outing that you attend. When our new website is fully operational, we will also maintain a list of everybody's totals on the website so that the more competitive of our members can have a bit of fun trying to outscore one another (and everybody else can be entertained by that)

What should you count on your list? There are a few basic rules:

- You must have seen the bird in the Hunter Region at least once (not just heard and definitely not dead)
- The Hunter Region is the area defined in HBOC's Hunter Region Annual Bird Reports
- Species not listed in the Bird Reports cannot be included, nor can species classified as escapees)
- For rare birds (those listed as Category 3 in the Bird Reports) we encourage that the HBOC Records Appraisal Committee has accepted the record. That is, you submitted a report to the RAC or else your observation occurred during a period when the species was known to be present. However that's not compulsory and all you have to do is submit your total to us.

So far about 420 species have been recorded in the Hunter Region. Maybe we'll have a Hunter 400 Club badge some day too!

COCOS (KEELING) and CHRISTMAS ISLAND REPORT

By Richard Baxter www.birdingtours.com.au

In March 2007 I organised and led two tours to the Cocos (Keeling) group of islands and to Christmas Island, both Australian territories in the Indian Ocean. Myself and other HBOC members enjoyed what has been described as the most successful birding trip EVER in Australia, with no less than SEVEN rare vagrants seen in eight days.

After departing Perth we arrived on West Island (Cocos) and late afternoon on our first day we headed off for a quick scout around the island before dinner and soon we all had good views of WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN, which is now far easier to see on Cocos than on Christmas Island where the out of control feral cat population has decimated their numbers.

The following day we began to see WESTERN REEF EGRETS *Egretta gularis schistacea* in all morphs, dark, white, intermediate and piebald. Their normal range extends from Africa across to Sri Lanka, the Maldives and India so it's not all that surprising that they have colonized the Cocos (Keeling) group of islands.

During the week we visited six islands in the atoll and had good views of many of the more common species such as Green Junglefowl, Christmas Island White-eye, Red-footed and Brown Booby, White Tern, Lesser and Greater Frigatebird, Red-tailed and White-tailed Tropicbirds as well as the local subspecies of Buff-banded Rail. Good views were had of Barn Swallows around the Quarantine Station and up to four breeding plumage Oriental Pratincole on the runway.

On our first visit to Christmas Island we had seen all the endemics in less than 24hrs of arriving and spent the remaining days searching for vagrants. On our second last day we rushed to the airport after receiving news of two ASIAN HOUSE MARTINS circling the hangers. The ten of us spread out and scanned the skies but no AHM's could be found. One of our group saw some distant birds at the northern end of the runway so we jumped in our cars and raced to the location.

Unfortunately they disappeared from view with only three people seeing them. Fortunately HBOC's Graeme O'Connor was one of the lucky ones.

On the 4 March 2007 we spotlighted the airport from near the car park and I had good views of SAVANNAH NIGHTJAR as it circled and called directly overhead. This proved to be one of the most frustrating birds of the trip. After it flew in the first time it then refused to come anywhere near our cars for the next three nights, preferring to fly up and down the dark runway calling for hours but unable to be seen. It was heard for the next three nights but seen only once on that first night.

Back on Cocos we bought supplies and readied our gear for the return trip to South Island in search of Saunders Terns. The 3km trip over shallow reef and sandbanks can only be undertaken in a flat bottom boat at high tide. After arriving, we left our boat on the point and retrieved our bins, scope, cameras etc and began the walk to their high tide roost. After a short distance we turned the corner and amazingly the first bird we all saw was a full breeding plumaged SAUNDER'S TERN plunge feeding in the shallows 20m from shore. After a minute or so of celebratory cheers, hugs and hi-fives we crept up on what became 6 terns feeding and roosting on the sandflats. I managed several flight photos but our visit lasted only 10 minutes as a huge storm approached from the south and was going to dump on us any second.

HBOC's Dick Jenkin and I decided to walk and swim back to West Island while the others went by boat. The return trip was even more eventful as the boat filled with rainwater and the group had to bail most of the way back. Dick and I were also visited by a couple of inquisitive sharks as we waded back across the lagoon but managed to reach the opposite shore to bird another day.

The following day our group was walking around the farm on West Island when we spotted a lone adult ASIAN HOUSE MARTIN circling the open areas and nearby palm trees. This time we all had outstanding views as it came within several metres of most of our group, resulting in several great photos.

On the following day we flew back to Christmas Island. While we had enjoyed good birding weather on Cocos, Christmas Island (900km away) had been battered by Cyclone Jacob during the preceding week.

We arrived on what was a completely different Island to that I had been on only a week prior. Thousands of trees had been knocked down, vast areas of thick rainforest thinned out and roads closed due to fallen trees. We quickly located all the endemics with hundreds of CI Frigatebirds (the world's rarest Frigatebird) seen daily and several Abbott's Boobies (the world's largest and rarest booby) still nesting in the tall rainforest trees. On both visits we found young Abbott's Boobies on the floor of the rainforest, which we took into National Parks for care. We wondered after the cyclone how many other young boobies were dying on the rainforest floor.

We had also hoped the cyclone had blown in a vagrant or two and it only took us a few hours to locate our first. On our morning visit to the garbage tip we located a WHITE WAGTAIL, which stayed for about 4 days, sometimes allowing us to approach quite closely to get some good pics. On the last two days every time I visited the tip there were 2-3 feral cats stalking it. On the 5th day it was gone.

Early the next morning as we again entered the rubbish tip a Hobby darted past us attacking a flock of Christmas Island Imperial Pigeons. Missing the pigeons it took off after another flock and hit a pigeon in flight, knocking it off course. We had all seen it but no one was able to get a photo, so we made our way to the northern end of the runway and again saw our hobby as it cruised past directly overhead. This time HBOC's Dick Jenkin was able to get three pics which helped to identify it as a EURASIAN HOBBY.

Towards the end of the wet season is definitely THE best time to visit these two islands for rare vagrants, whether they be over-shooting Asian migrants or reverse migration birds. One advantage of this time of year is that birds are in full breeding plumage and thus easier to ID. This could not be more evident than on my 2006 visit when I discovered Grey-headed (*macronyx*) Wagtail and Chinese Pond Heron, neither of which could have been identified in non-breeding plumage. The same applied in 2007 to Saunders Tern.

On the Cocos there has now been two additions to the Australian bird list from the African Region, Saunders Tern and Western Reef Egret. WRE has colonised the islands from Africa but it's unknown if the occurrence of Saunders Tern is a once only overshoot from Africa, the Maldives, India or Sri Lanka or whether they are regular summer migrants that were only discovered last summer as a result of more birders visiting the Cocos. I'll be certainly looking for them again in March 2008. But what will turn up on the Cocos from Africa next? My prediction – CRAB PLOVER!

Cocos (Keeling) and Christmas Islands are similar to Ashmore Reef where you can keep going back each year and see something new each time. My latest trip in 2007 was my 5th visit and I got 5 new ticks! On the same trip a few others had also been previously and they all got at least 6 new birds. With this in mind I'll be doing three trips to both islands again in 2008. Two trips in March and another in Nov-Dec.

If you're interested in coming along the dates are on our website www.birdingtours.com.au or I can be contacted on 0412 540212.

Regards

Richard Baxter

GIANT PENGUIN FOSSILS FOUND IN PERU

This story by Lewis Smith was published in The Times on 20 June 2007 and is copyright to News Limited

THE fossilised remains of a giant tropical penguin have been uncovered by paleontologists. The extinct creature was at least 1.5m taller than even the emperor penguin, and had the longest beak ever known among the aquatic birds.

It would have swum in tropical waters 36 million years ago during one of the warmest periods on Earth since the death of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

Researchers were astonished by the size of the penguin, especially the beak, which, at 18cm, is more than twice as long as the rest of its skull.

Remains of the *Icadyptes salasi* were unearthed on the southern coast of Peru along with another previously unknown, ancient tropical penguin, *Perudyptes devriesi*, which was alive 42 million years ago.

Until the fossils were found, penguins had been thought to have first swum in low-latitude equatorial waters 10 million years ago. But the new discoveries have put back the date by about 30 million years.

The two fossilised penguins, the most complete and among the earliest discovered, are casting new light on the how the features of modern penguins evolved, and when and where they were distributed in the oceans.

Their appearance in equatorial waters took place long before the world started to cool, from about 34 million years ago, to the point where ice-caps formed at the poles.

Julia Clarke, of North Carolina State University in the US, was one of the team of scientists from Peru, Argentina and the US who studied the fossils, which were discovered in 2005.

She said: “We tend to think of penguins as being cold-adapted species – even the small penguins in equatorial regions today.

“But the new fossils date back to one of the warmest periods in the last 65 million years of Earth’s history.

“The evidence indicates that penguins reached low-latitude regions more than 30 million years prior to our previous estimates.”

The two fossil penguins are thought to have evolved in separate parts of the world before swimming to the warmer equatorial waters, said the researchers, who reported their findings online in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The giant penguin is believed to have developed near New Zealand while *Perudyptes devriesi*, which at about 3ft was approximately the size of a modern king penguin, originated from Antarctica.

Both of the new species had the long, narrow beaks shared by modern penguins. The researchers say that the fossils showed that it was the ancestral design for all penguins, albeit “grossly elongated” in the giant. Other features that evolved, and the age and distribution of the two species, were such that the research team rewrote the penguin family tree after analysing the fossils.

Despite the two extinct species showing a willingness to leave the cooler waters of the high, southern latitudes, Dr Clarke cautioned against assuming that modern penguins will be able to cope with the warmer temperatures predicted through climate change today.

“These Peruvian species are early branches of the penguin family tree – comparatively distant cousins of living penguins,” she said.

“In addition, current global warming is occurring on a significantly shorter timescale. The data from these new fossil species cannot be used to argue that warming wouldn’t negatively impact on living penguins.”

Secret of the swift's aerial mastery is revealed.

This article by Steve Connor, Science Editor, is from The Independent(London) 26 April 2007.

They swoop to the ground and perform breathtaking displays of aerial acrobatics before soaring to dizzying heights above the clouds. Now scientists believe they know how swifts are able to fly so fast and for so long

A series of experiments with a wing tunnel has shown just how it is possible for a small bird such as a swift to spend so much of its time in the air – eating, sleeping and even mating on the wing. The secret is their ability to change the shape of their wings so that they get the best performance for the smallest amount of energy – scientists call it “wing morphing”

Swifts can often be seen and heard on summer evenings when they fly at high speed in screeching flocks- but it is not widely known that they spend most of their lives in flight, rarely landing except to lay eggs and to rear their young. Scientists estimate that over the course of its lifetime a swift will cover 2.8 million miles, a distance equivalent to six round trips to the Moon or 100 times around the Earth They catch up to 20,000 insects a day and have been monitored on radar at night flying at a height of almost a mile where they spend much of their time “roosting” in flight.

A team of Dutch and Swedish scientists has found that the swift is able to take to a life of flight with such apparent ease because it is able to “morph” its wing to a range of shapes to get the best aerodynamic performance with the smallest energy costs.

“ During flight , they continually change the shape of their wings from spread wide to swept back” said Dr David Lentink, a zoologist at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. “ When they fly slowly and straight, extended wings carry swifts 1.5 times farther and keep them airborne twice as long. To fly fast , swifts tend to sweep back their wings to gain a similar advantage” Dr Lentink said.

A study published in the journal Nature monitored the swift's flight using a wind tunnel and the dismembered wings of swifts that had been brought dead or dying to a number of Dutch bird sanctuaries.

The scientists compared the amount of “lift” and “drag” on each wing according to its shape and the speed of the wind, which could be varied by up to 30 metres per second to mimic different wind speeds. At slower speeds, outstretched wings gave the best flight efficiency.

However for flying fast and straight, it was better to sweep the wings backward into a “V” shape. “ Swept wings are also better for fast and tight turns, but this time swept wings are better because they do not break as easily as extended wings” Dr Lentink said.

The main findings are that by changing wing shape swifts can fly up to 60 per cent further. 100 per cent longer in terms of time, and their turns can be up to three times better, sharper and faster” he said. At night during sleep , swifts have their wings outstretched so that they fly at slower speeds of between 8 and 10 metres per second. At these speeds, swifts fly with maximum efficiency, with more gliding and less flapping to maintain altitude, Dr Lentink said.

Wing morphing in swifts and other birds is being studied by scientists at the US space agency NASA who are interested in adapting techniques in the design of new aircraft and aerial surveillance robots. Dutch scientists are attempting to incorporate the latest findings into the design of micro-airplanes that can fly like swifts.

BOCA NAME CHANGE

Did you know that the organisation formerly known as Bird Observers Club of Australia has changed its name to Bird Observation & Conservation Australia –maintaining the BOCA acronym.

The name change is the latest effort by BOCA to help generate public awareness that birds serve as indicators for important issues such as climate change, which affects all Australians. BOCA is also expanding its conservation work nationwide with greater national office resources and the recruitment of more support staff.

For some time BOCA has been combining with the other national bird organisation Birds Australia to coordinate conservation efforts. This means that the limited resources of National bird organisations are now focused on preserving bird and their habitat - s including the important tasks of education and awareness-raising at community and Government levels. The false dichotomy that used to exist between those who enjoyed birdwatching as a sport or pastime and those who studied and conserved birds is now resolved. The BOCA name change is a symbolic recognition of that fact.

Hunter Bird Observers Club is affiliated with BOCA whilst maintaining its independent status.

CAFÉ @ Hunter Wetlands Centre NOW OPEN

The new café has been officially opened and is serving morning teas from 10-12 and lunches from 12 – 3 . The Bushfood menu is reported to be excellent and the view from the new deck to die for.

And of course an enjoyable experience for all the family at Hunter Wetlands Centre – Gateway to the Hunter Wetlands

Regular Event coming up:

Breakfast with the Birds Sunday September 9 at 8am
\$20 per adult, \$10 per child

Bookings and other information 02 4951 6466

Australian Wader Study Group North-West Australia Wader and Tern Expedition 10 November to 1st December 2007.

The fieldwork program will principally consist of regular banding and appropriate counting of waders and terns at Broome and 80 Mile Beach to fulfil specific research objectives.

Proposed itinerary

| | |
|---|--------|
| Broome/Roebuck Bay (inc inland locations) | 9 days |
| 80 Mile Beach/Anna Plains | 9 days |
| travel between destinations | 2 days |

Costs – Participants responsible for own costs of travelling to join or leave the expedition at Broome or 80 Mile beach. When in NW Australia there will be a charge of \$27 per day for food, gas, laundry and other consumables and equipment costs/overheads plus a charge of \$220 per week for local transport costs (hire of 4WD, fuel etc)

People are strongly encouraged to come for the whole period of three weeks. This maximises efficiency with everybody becoming fully integrated into the team. It maximises enjoyment and benefits and enables everyone to contribute as well as to learn. It also leads to a more effective team if changes in personnel are minimal.

Previous wader banding or expedition experience is not essential. What is important is the readiness to work hard (when required) and be a contributor to the team (lazy/loners won't fit in!) It is a wonderful opportunity to mix with and learn from others with different backgrounds and experience.

Those interested should contact the expedition leaders ASAP – this does not need to be a firm commitment – but will greatly assist the leaders in planning. This information is summarised from a much more comprehensive “ brochure” obtainable from one of the expedition leaders - Clive Minton 165 Dalgetty Road. Beaumaris Vic 3193. Ph 03 9589 4901. email: mintons@ozemail.com.au.

The brochure also includes details of the Australasian Ornithological Conference to be held in Perth, December 2 to December 5 2007.

OBSERVATIONS FROM CLUB NIGHT JUN/JUL 2007

| | | | | |
|--------|--------------------------|---------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Jan 25 | Spotted Harrier | 2 | Deep Pond | F.van Gessel |
| Feb 7 | Lewin's Rail | 1 | " | " |
| | Red-necked Stint | 120 | " | " |
| Feb 8 | Pectoral Sandpiper | 1 | " | " |
| | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 600 | " | " |
| | Marsh Sandpiper | 100+ | " | " |
| | Rufous Songlark | 1 | Kooragang Island | " |
| | Peregrine Falcon | 1 | " | " |
| Feb 10 | Red-backed Button-Quail | 3 | " | " |
| Feb 11 | Latham's Snipe | 10 | Lenaghans Drive | " |
| Feb 12 | Australian Hobby | 1m | Kooragang Island | " |
| Feb 22 | Little Friarbird | 2 | Gloucester [garden] | P.Drake-Brockman |
| Feb 5 | Peaceful Dove | 1 | " | " |
| Jun | Topknot Pigeon | Flocks | Gloucester | " |
| Jun 17 | Australian White Ibis | 65 | Gloucester to Barrington Rd | " |
| May 31 | Comb-crested Jacana | 2+ | Craven [farm dam] | " |
| Apr 6 | Blue-faced Honeyeaters | 15 | Green Wattle Creek | M.Newman |
| May 12 | Olive-backed Oriole | 3 | Martins Creek | " |
| | Dusky Woodswallow | 12 | " | " |
| | Figbird | 15+ | " | " |
| | Green Catbird | 1 | " | " |
| May 4 | Rose-crowned Fruit Dove | 1imm | Harrington | A.Richardson |
| | Spangled Drongo | 1 | " | " |
| | Fan-tailed Cuckoo | 1 | " | " |
| | Large-billed Scrubwren | 1 | " | " |
| | Regent Bowerbird | 1 | " | " |
| | Shining Bronze-cuckoo | 1 | " | " |
| | Bar-tailed Godwit | | " | " |
| | Whimbrel | | " | " |
| May 4 | Wandering Whistling Duck | 4 | Newcastle University | H.Tarrant |
| May 17 | Brown Goshawk | 1 | Bolwarra | " |
| May 26 | Scarlet Robin | Pr | Jones Reserve Rd. | " |
| | Diamond Firetail | | 10km past Jerrys Plains | " |
| | Diamond Firetail | | Doyles Creek | " |
| | White-browed Babbler | | " | " |
| | Peregrine Falcon | 1 | Apple Tree Flat | " |
| May 27 | Pacific Baza | 1 | Hunter Region Botanic Gardens | " |
| Jun 7 | Black Falcon | Pr. | Scone | G.Newling |
| Jun 19 | Blue-billed Duck | 1 | Walka Water Works | L.Mee/J.Smart |
| Jun 25 | Musk Lorikeet | 2 | New Lambton [garden] | P.Lightfoot |
| May 1 | Blue-faced Honeyeater | Pr nest | Edgeworth | Les Walker |
| | Black-chinned Honeyeater | Pr nest | " | " |
| Apr 24 | Black Kite | 2 | Wingen | G.Newling |
| Apr 24 | Common Greenshank | 8 | Ash Island | G.Brosie |
| | Sharp-tailed Sandpiper | 8 | " | " |
| | Red-necked Stint | 20 | " | " |
| | Pacific Golden Plover | 1 | " | " |
| | Double-banded Plover | 1 | " | " |
| May 29 | Plumed Whistling Duck | 30 | Rathluba Lagoon | M.Maddock |
| Jun 20 | Great Crested Grebe | 26 | Grahamstown Dam[Medowie] | " |
| | Hoary-headed Grebe | 90 | " [Medowie turnoff] | " |
| May 14 | Hardhead | 35 | " | " |
| | Hoary-headed Grebe | 52 | " | " |
| May 1 | Topknot Pigeon | 1 | Mayfield | P.Chegwidden |
| May 25 | Little Friarbird | 3 | Galgabba Point | J.Adams |
| | Musk Lorikeet | 50 | " | " |
| Jun 30 | White-winged Chough | ~40 | Fishers Hill Rd. Vacy | D.Raine et al |
| Jun 13 | Spangled Drongo | 1 | Dudley Bluff | T.Clarke |
| Jun 26 | Eastern Spinebill | 1 | Wallsend | " |

| | | | | |
|--------|------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Jun 27 | Red-necked Stint | 6 | Moonee Beach [Munmorah] | T.Clarke |
| Jun 26 | Masked Owl | 1 | Fosterton Loop [Dungog] | D.Jenkin |
| Jun 29 | Grey Goshawk | 1 | Williamstown | T. Burgin |
| Jun | Bar-tailed Godwit | 6 | North Arm Cove | “ |
| Jul 1 | Swift Parrot | ~200 | Weston | S.Roderick |
| Jul 8 | Australasian Gannet | 6 | Port Stephens | T.Burgin |
| Jul 4 | Osprey | 1 | Wybong Head Munmorah SRA | T.Clarke |
| Jul 3 | Osprey | 1 | Black Ned's Bay | J.Adams |
| Jul 7 | Little Penguin | 1 | Swansea Channel [lake side] | “ |
| Jul 10 | Bar-tailed Godwit | 2 | Coon Island | “ |
| | Bar-tailed Godwit | 2 | Black Ned's Bay | “ |
| | Whistling Kite | 1 | “ | “ |
| | Pied Oystercatcher | 2 | “ | “ |
| Jul 7 | Topknot Pigeon | 1 | Mayfield | P.Chegwidden |
| Jul 11 | Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo | 3 | New Lambton Heights | P.Lightfoot |
| Jul 5 | Southern Boobook | 1 | Toronto | P.Durie |
| Jul 11 | Little Black Cormorant | ~80 | Sunshine | C.Goodenough |
| | Osprey | 2 | “ | “ |
| Jul 9 | Rainbow Lorikeet | 1 dy | “ | “ |
| Jun 20 | Musk Lorikeet | 2 | Medowie | “ |
| Jul 14 | Royal Spoonbill | 8 | Telarah | G.Newling |
| | Plumed Whistling Duck | 165 | Doughboy Hollow | “ |
| | Royal Spoonbill | 5 | “ | “ |
| | Cattle Egret | 1 | “ | “ |
| | Barn Owl [road kill] | 1 | Lake Liddell | “ |
| | Little Eagle | 1 | Parkville | “ |
| Jul 13 | Blue-faced Honeyeater | 1 | Warners Bay | R.Walker |
| Jul 18 | Blue-faced Honeyeater | 1 | Pelican | “ |
| Jul 13 | Topknot Pigeon | ~20 | Galgabba Point | J.Thomas |
| Jul | Cattle Egret | 157 | N'cle Wetland Reserve | R.McDonald |
| | Darter | 24 | “ | “ |
| | Pied Cormorant | 87 | “ | “ |
| | Great Cormorant | 49 | “ | “ |
| | Little Pied Cormorant | 16 | “ | “ |
| | Little Black Cormorant | 74 | “ | “ |

Upcoming Events Calender

| DATE | EVENT | MEETING PLACE & TIME | CONTACT |
|------------------------|--|--|--|
| Sunday 12 August | Volunteer Day Stockton Sandspit | 8.00am to noon Sandspit Car park | Tom Clarke 4951 3872 |
| Wednesday 15 August | Ash Island mangrove removal | 8.00am Ash Island car park | Robert McDonald 4967 4161 |
| Saturday 18 August | Hunter Wader Survey | 10.30am Ash Island 11.00am Other locations as directed | Alan Stuart 4952 8569 Chris Herbert 4959 3663 |
| Sunday 19 August | Field Outing: Johnson Hill Track, Myall Lakes NP | 8.00am Tea Gardens Info Centre | Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 |
| Tuesday 21 August | Tomago Wetland Survey | 7.30am Tomago House | Please ring to confirm Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 |
| Saturday 25 August | Atlassing: Awaba Forest area | | Please ring to confirm Nick Livanos 49545739 |

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| | | | Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 |
| Wednesday 29 August | Ash Island mangrove removal | 8.00am Ash Island car park | Robert McDonald 4967 4161 |
| Tuesday 4 September | Mid-Week Outing Walka Water Works | 7.30am Walka Water Works Car Park | Keith Woods 4963 3070 |
| Wednesday 5 September | Ash Island mangrove removal | 8.00am Ash Island car park | Robert McDonald 4967 4161 |
| Wednesday 5 September | Management Committee Meeting | 7.00pm – 10.00pm Garden Suburbs School | All members welcome |
| Sunday 9 September | Volunteer Day Stockton Sandspit | 8.00am to noon Sandspit Car park | Tom Clarke 4951 3872 |
| Wednesday 12 September | Club Meeting | 7.30pm The Wetlands Centre | Speaker: Phil Hansbro Sub-Antarctic Islands |
| Saturday 15 September | Hunter Wader Survey | 9.30am Ash Island 10.00am Other locations as directed | Alan Stuart 4952 8569 Chris Herbert 4959 3663 |
| Mon/Tues/Wed 17 to 19 September | Midweek camp at Harrington | Harrington Caravan Park | Keith Woods 4963 3070 |
| Wednesday 19 September | Ash Island mangrove removal | 8.00am Ash Island car park | Robert McDonald 4967 4161 |
| Thursday 21 September | Tomago Wetland Survey | 7.30am Tomago House | Please ring to confirm Neville McNaughton 4951 1265 |
| Saturday 22 September | Atlassing: Barrington Tops NP near Gloucester | 6.30am MacDonalds Raymond Terrace | Please ring to confirm Nick Livanos 49545739 Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 (may not be here) |
| Sunday 23 September | Field Outing Central Coast area | TBA | TBA |
| Saturday - Monday 29 September - 1 October | Long Weekend Camp | Camp end of Baerami Valley, near old shale oil mines | Ann Lindsey 4951 2008 |
| Tuesday 2 October | Mid-Week Outing Blackbutt Reserve | 7.30am Richley Reserve Car Park | Keith Laverick 4958 8365 |
| Wednesday 3 October | Management Committee Meeting | 7.00pm – 10.00pm Garden Suburbs School | All members welcome |
| Sunday 7 October | Volunteer Day Stockton Sandspit | 8.00am to noon Sandspit Car park | Tom Clarke 4951 3872 |
| Wednesday 10 October | Club Meeting | 7.30pm The Wetlands Centre | Speaker: TBA |